

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An infection management system, comprising:
  - a catheter with a lumen extending therethrough;
  - a side-arm tube extending laterally from a side of the catheter, wherein the side-arm tube is located in a region of the catheter which remains outside a patient's body, and
  - a lumen through the side-arm tube communicates with the catheter lumen;
  - a one-way valve which prevents fluid flow from the catheter lumen through the side-arm tube lumen without preventing fluid flow through the catheter lumen; and
  - an antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device configured to be inserted through the side-arm tube lumen and the one-way valve into the catheter lumen, ~~wherein the antimicrobial agent is configured to be released from the intervention device after the intervention device has been inserted into the catheter lumen; and~~
  - a cap coupled to the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device, the cap being configured so that a user can handle the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device without directly contacting the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device.
2. (Original) The infection management system of claim 1, wherein the catheter comprises a catheter body and an extension joined to a proximal end of the catheter body, the extension having a lumen extending longitudinally therethrough and in communication with the catheter lumen, and the side-arm tube extends laterally from the catheter extension.

3. (Original) The infection management system of claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device comprises an antimicrobial agent-bearing rod.
4. (Original) The infection management system of claim 3, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod comprises a flexible polymer rod.
5. (Original) The infection management system of claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent is iodine.
6. (Currently amended) The infection management system of claim 1, wherein a region of the catheter ~~to be located within the patient's body~~ comprises a material which permits passage of the antimicrobial agent released from the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device from the catheter lumen to an outer surface of the catheter.
7. (Currently amended) The infection management system of claim 3, ~~further comprising a cap, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod is affixed to the cap, and~~ the cap is adapted to seal a proximal end of the side-arm tube after the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod is inserted into the catheter lumen.
8. (Original) The infection management system of claim 7, wherein the cap has a threaded portion that cooperates with a threaded portion on the side-arm tube.
9. (Original) The infection management system of claim 7, wherein the cap is a stopper sized to frictionally engage and seal the proximal end of the side-arm tube.
10. (Currently Amended) An infection management method, comprising ~~the steps of:~~  
providing a catheter with a lumen extending therethrough, a side-arm tube extending laterally from a side of the catheter, wherein the side-arm tube is located in a region of the catheter which remains outside a patient's body and a lumen through the side-arm tube communicates with the catheter lumen, and a one-way valve located to prevent fluid flow from

the catheter lumen through the side-arm tube lumen without preventing fluid flow through the catheter lumen; and

inserting an antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device a cap through the side-arm tube and the one-way valve into the catheter lumen,

~~wherein the antimicrobial agent is configured to be released from the intervention device after the intervention device has been inserted into the catheter lumen~~ the cap is coupled to the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device, and the cap is configured so that a user can handle the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device without directly contacting the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device.

11. (Original) The infection management method of claim 10, wherein the catheter comprises a catheter body and an extension joined to a proximal end of the catheter body, the extension having a lumen extending longitudinally therethrough and in communication with the catheter lumen, and the side-arm tube extends laterally from the catheter extension.

12. (Original) The infection management method of claim 10, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device comprises an antimicrobial agent-bearing rod.

13. (Original) The infection management method of claim 12, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod comprises a flexible polymer rod.

14. (Original) The infection management method of claim 10, wherein the antimicrobial agent is iodine.

15. (Currently amended) The infection management method of claim 10, wherein a region of the catheter ~~to be located within the patient's body~~ comprises a material which permits passage of the antimicrobial agent released from the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device from the catheter lumen to an outer surface of the catheter.

16. (Currently amended) The infection management method of claim 10, ~~further comprising: a cap, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod is affixed to the cap, and the cap is adapted to~~

seal a proximal end of the side-arm tube after the antimicrobial agent-bearing rod is inserted into the catheter lumen.

17. (Original) The infection management method of claim 16, wherein the cap has a threaded portion that cooperates with a threaded portion on the side-arm tube.

18. (Original) The infection management method of claim 16, wherein the cap is a stopper sized to frictionally engage and seal the proximal end of the side-arm tube.

19. (Currently amended) An anti-infection catheter, comprising  
a main catheter tube with a lumen extending therethrough;  
a side-arm tube extending laterally from a side of the main catheter tube, wherein  
the side-arm tube is located in a region of the catheter which remains outside a patient's  
body, and

a lumen through the side-arm tube communicates with the lumen of the main catheter  
tube;

a one-way valve adapted to permit passage of an antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention  
device between the side-arm tube lumen and the main catheter tube lumen while preventing fluid  
flow from the main catheter tube lumen through the side-arm tube lumen, wherein the one-way  
valve does not prevent fluid flow through the main catheter tube lumen, ~~wherein the  
antimicrobial agent is configured to be released from the intervention device after the  
intervention device has been inserted into the main catheter tube lumen; and~~

a cap coupled to the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device,  
wherein the cap is configured so that a user can handle the antimicrobial agent-bearing  
intervention device without directly contacting the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention  
device.

20. (Currently amended) The anti-infection catheter of claim 19, wherein the main catheter  
tube comprises a catheter body and an extension joined to a proximal end of the catheter body,  
and the side-arm tube extends laterally from the catheter extension.

21. (Previously presented) The infection management system of claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device is configured to remain in the catheter lumen during fluid flow through the catheter lumen.

22. (Previously presented) The infection management system of claim 21, wherein the fluid flow is associated with a hemodialysis procedure.

23. (Previously presented) The infection management method of claim 10, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device is configured to remain in the catheter lumen during fluid flow through the catheter lumen.

24. (Previously presented) The infection management ~~system~~ method of claim 23, wherein the fluid flow is associated with a hemodialysis procedure.

25. (Previously presented) The anti-infection catheter of claim 19, wherein the antimicrobial agent-bearing intervention device is configured to remain in the main catheter tube lumen during fluid flow through the main catheter tube lumen.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~infection management system~~ anti-infection catheter of claim 25, wherein the fluid flow is associated with a hemodialysis procedure.